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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. FIRST NAMED INVENTOR APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE 1482 02/15/2001 N. Leigh Anderson 41343 09/783,132 **EXAMINER** 7590 10/02/2003 1609 ROYLANCE, ABRAMS, BERDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P. CHIN, PAUL T 1300 19TH STREET, N.W. PAPER NUMBER ART UNIT **SUITE 600** WASHINGTON,, DC 20036 3652

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No. Applicant(s) ANDERSON ET AL.	•		\hookrightarrow \downarrow \downarrow	
Examiner PAUL T. CHIN S552 - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE £ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Estessible of time may be available useder the provisions of 37 CFR 1.196(p). In no event, however, may a neyly be timely filed If NO period for reply is pecified above, the maximum distinctor period will apply and the file that the provisions of 37 CFR 1.196(p). In no event, however, may a neyly be timely filed If NO period for reply is pecified above, the maximum distinctor period will apply and will apply a SM (NONTHS from the maillage date of this communication for the provision of the communication of the provision of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 1) Carlified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 1) Carlified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application (PtO-15) 1) Chicket Order of Index of the provision of the priority documents have been received in this Nat		Application No.	Applicant(s)	
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Art Unit: 3652

- 1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-19, drawn to a gripping apparatus, classified in class 294, subclass 86.4.
 - II. Claims 20-24,49-51,77-88, drawn to an apparatus and method for Gel Electrophoresis processes, classified in class 406, subclass 456.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

- 2. Inventions of Group II and I are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because many different gel-gripping devices can be used for processing of gel electrophoresis in a tank. The subcombination has separate utility such as a grapple or gripper, fluid pressured grapple, biasing grapple, magnetic gripper, and magnetic retrieving devices.
- 3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
- 4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
- 5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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Art Unit: 3652

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL T. CHIN whose telephone number is (703) 305-1524. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-THURS (7:30 -6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, EILEEN LILLIS can be reached on (703) 308-3248. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-1113.

PAUL T. CHIN

Paul Cli

Examiner

Art Unit 3652

PTC

September 30, 2003